

County Seeks Producers for Research Project

LANDOWNERS CAN TAKE PART IN AN EXCITING NEW PROJECT TO ESTABLISH PLANTING GUIDELINES FOR THE LAND NEXT TO WATERWAYS.



Rocky View County is one of five regions across the province that will be establishing important test sites for growing and maintaining plants in riparian areas. A riparian area is where land and water meet; the perfect place to establish a buffer zone to filter and improve the quality of water entering the watersheds. It's the place where you will often see water loving plants such as cattails growing.

The Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society is partnering with the County to find landowners interested in having their riparian land available as a test site in creating groundbreaking new practices that will later be the basis of a best practices manual, along with a series of workshops, fact sheets, and articles.

The test sites will be monitored annually to gather best practices information in the following areas:

- Trees and shrubs to plant in riparian areas
- Most effect planting and maintenance methods
- Best way to design the planting site

Program Criteria

Here are a few of the conditions producers need to have in place to take part in the program.

- Have an active livestock operation on the property.
- Have completed or will be completing an Environmental Farm Plan.
- Have property that borders a waterway such as river, creek, or lake.
- Allow Rocky View County and Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society access to the potential planting sites (notice would be provided).
- Commit for a three-year period.
- Be willing to fence the planting site a minimum of three metres back from the riparian area.

Landowners will be reimbursed for any costs associated with the project.

For more information, please contact Kendra Tippe at 403-520-8162 or ktippe@rockyview.ca.

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

Implementing agricultural policies, programs, and services which support a sustainable future for Rocky View County residents.

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ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities



Wrapping up Winter

ENSURING SPRING RUNOFF DOESN'T CARRY PASTURE WASTE TO JOINT WATERWAYS

This year, poor winter conditions left many Rocky View County producers struggling to winter their cattle in their fields. For some, tractors had to be parked and snowmobiles were used to move fences, and swaths of hay couldn't be accessed due to excess snow and hard packed drifts. Many of you had to find alternative feeding locations for livestock. Before spring runoff begins, it is a good time to consider where your feeding and bedding site is in relation to the nearest body of water.

The greatest environmental risk from wintering sites is the potential of contaminating runoff water with pathogens and sediment. Under provincial regulation, wintering sites must be at least 30 metres away from a shared body of water. If this is not possible, you must either move the accumulated manure and bedding, or divert the spring runoff away from any water bodies. While vegetative buffers are natural filters in the summer months, they are ineffective for spring runoff as vegetation is dormant and the soil is frozen.

To help you assess the risk of contaminating nearby water, you can pick up a copy of the brand new book, "The Wintering Site Assessment and Design Tool – A Guide to Selecting and Managing a Wintering Site in Western Canada." These guidelines have been developed to help producers identify any environmental risks associated with their wintering sites.

If you find that you need to change your management practices, provincial funding is available through Growing Forward 2. Producers can apply for multiple projects such as installing year-round portable watering systems, portable shelters, and windbreaks.

Program Criteria

To be eligible for the program, producers must be actively operating in Alberta and must have completed an Alberta Environmental Farm Plan. An application for each project must be submitted and approved before any work begins or project materials are purchased.

Next Steps

To apply for the program, visit www.growingforward.alberta, and click on "Programs" and then "On-Farm Stewardship".

Copies of the Wintering Site Assessment and Design Tool are available at www.agriculture.ab.ca or call 1-800-292-5697.

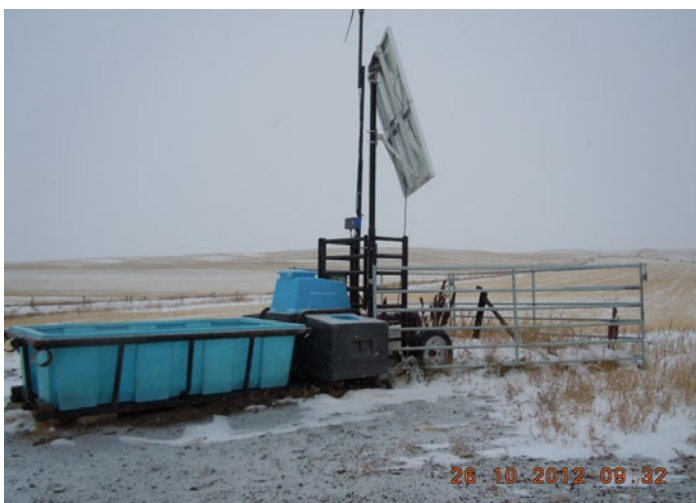
For more information about these programs, contact Rocky View County Agricultural Services at 403-520-8162, or e-mail ktippe@rockyview.ca.



Runoff from a pasture should be diverted before it enters a shared water source.



Consider where the spring runoff will carry the waste that accumulates by livestock windbreaks.



A year-round portable water system keeps the cattle away from this producers creek.

Sign up for Beef Producers Survey

Beef producers in Rocky View County are urged to participate in a provincial survey about the costs of wildlife to them and their industry. Over 20,000 beef operations with 5.5 million cattle share the landscape with native wildlife species. Co-existing with wildlife often results in economic impacts to producers: animal or feed loss, property damage or loss, the costs of damage prevention and producer management activities dealing with wildlife. How do we measure these impacts, and who should pay for them?

Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) initiated this survey and intend to use the results to help create an environment between producers and others that:

1. Recognizes producers as stewards of the land, who bear significant costs supporting wildlife.
2. Foster a cooperative approach to wildlife management.
3. Recognize producers' knowledge of reasonable levels of local wildlife populations.
4. Develop fair and sensible methods for measuring losses to wildlife.
5. Acknowledge the uneven distribution of wildlife costs among producers and throughout society.
6. Pursue creative mechanisms such as Ecological Goods and Services programs for financing stewardship and realistic loss compensation.

To be successful, the project needs over 2000 beef producers from across Alberta to fill out the short survey. It is important to hear from all producers, those encountering difficulties and those who are not, whether you're cow/calf, backgrounder, feedlot or other.

The survey can be found at www.beefsurvey.ca. It will be open to March 21, 2014.



Free Agriculture Webinars

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development are offering a free webinar series for agricultural producers.

An Update on Timed Artificial Insemination Programs for Dairy Cattle

When: March 5, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Marcos Colazo, Dairy Research Scientist, Livestock Research Branch

The idea of timed artificial insemination (TAI) is not new, however, new developments and modifications on TAI in dairy cattle can increase your chances of success in your reproduction program. Join us as Marcos Colazo, Dairy Research Scientist, reviews the physiology and endocrinology of the estrous cycle and shows how ovarian physiology can be manipulated and controlled for TAI in dairy cattle.

The Ins and Outs of Cereal Breeding

When: March 12, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Joseph Nyachiro, Flavio Capettini and Mazen Aljarrah, Feed Crops Branch

Ever wonder how we get new varieties of wheat, triticale or barley? The aim of this webinar is to bring light to this amazing topic. We will show you how and where we find new sources of cereal varieties. Then we will take you through the complicated but exciting journey of creation and deliverance of new varieties that have the best traits for Alberta producers.

Alberta's Carbon Offset System, Background and Update

When: March 19, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Paul Jungnitsch, Greenhouse Gas Offset Agrologist, Land Use Section, Agri-Environmental Management Branch

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development has been working on a new system for handling carbon offset credits for a few years now. Join us for a detailed description of Alberta's Carbon system. We will touch on how the system came to be, how it works, and how the agriculture industry can make use of the system through offsets.

The Alberta Insect Monitoring Network - More than Forecasts

When: March 26, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Scott Meers, Insect Management Specialist, Pest Surveillance Branch

The Alberta Insect Monitoring Network is organized by Alberta Agriculture but has input from across the cropping industry. One major role is to produce forecasts for various insects but it also becomes a hub for much more. Take a tour with us through the program to see what else there is to learn.

For more information or to register for a webinar visit www.agric.gov.ab.ca and search "Winter Webinar Series," or call Ken Blackley at 780-422-3951.

County Supports 4-H

As part of Rocky View County's ongoing commitment to 4-H and youth in agriculture, local 4-H clubs and members have benefited in the following ways this past year:

- Received funds toward the cost of rental spaces for 4-H meetings and events.
- Received funds to support events during the National 4-H centennial.
- County acknowledgement of National 4-H Centennial Month in November.
- County Councillors judged 4-H speaking contests.
- Two \$500 scholarships were awarded to local 4-H members Halvard Nixdorf and Raymond Gallelli. See the full article in the February issue of Vantage Point at www.rockyview.ca by clicking on "News and Events" and then "Publications".

Upcoming programs for 4-H members

4-H members attending college or university in the fall of 2014 are eligible for scholarships by applying through the 4-H Foundation. For more information on other County supported initiatives, contact your 4-H Key Leader at the district level.

In addition, a grazing and sustainability workshop is scheduled for all Rocky View District 4-H club members on April 5, 2014.

For more information on Rocky View County's commitment to 4-H and youth in agriculture, contact Laura Poile at lpbile@rockyview.ca or 403-520-7273.

Get Set To Grow Workshop Series

Farmer Pesticide Training and Exam*

Rocky View County Municipal Building
Wednesday, March 19, 2014
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Tree Pruning

Rocky View County Municipal Building
Saturday, March 15, 2014
9 to 11 a.m., or 1 to 3 p.m.
\$10 per person

Acreage Living: Septic System Basics

Cochrane RanchoHouse, Aspen Room
Wednesday March 26, 2014
6 to 9 p.m.

Edible Landscaping

(Joint workshop with City of Airdrie)
Airdrie Agriculture Centre
Thursday, April 10, 2014
7 to 9 p.m.

Acreage Living: Weeds and Pests

Cochrane RanchoHouse, Aspen Room
Wednesday April 16, 2014
6 to 9 p.m.

Vegetable Gardening

Cochrane RanchoHouse, Aspen Room
Wednesday April 30, 2014
6 to 9 p.m.

To register, call Donna Eaton at 403-520-6301 or go to www.rockyview.ca and click on the "Agriculture" tab, then "Agricultural Events" and lastly "Event Registration Form". Please check the events page for future listings.

*If you plan to attend a **Farmer Pesticide Certificate Training and Exam workshop**, please pre-read the course material. To see the materials, visit Agriculture and Rural Development at www.agric.gov.ab.ca and search "Farmer Pesticide Training Certificate Course". For more information contact Tim Dietzler at 403-520-1271 or tdietzler@rockyview.ca.

4-H Recycling

Here we are, looking forward to spring, and soon it will be time for Rocky View County's Waste and Recycling Agricultural Roundups to begin. Our schedule will be available by the end of April at www.rockyview.ca at "County Services" then click on "Garbage and Recycling". We're looking for a new venue for the Jumping Pound area, so stay tuned for a new location!

Perhaps this is a good opportunity to remind producers that the 4-H Foundation has several year-round recycling/fundraising initiatives that may help you clear some unwanted items from your property.

4-H groups will collect the following:



Tires – passenger and light truck tires, medium truck tires, off-road tires, and agricultural tires.



Electronic Recycling – computers and servers, laptops, tablets, televisions, printers, copiers, scanners, and fax machines.



Oil Products – 4H has a contractor that will pick up used oil filters, used motor oil, plastic oil containers, and pails.



Automotive Batteries – 4H collects automotive batteries from producers with guidance from approved contractors.

For more information, please contact the 4H Foundation at 1-877-682-2153, or foundation@4hab.com

Agricultural supplies available

FOR RENT:

Pasture Sprayer

No charge to rent. Cost covered by the Agri-Environmental Incentive Program, \$1000 deposit required at drop off.

Skunk Trap

Free for 2 weeks, \$25 per week after the first 2 weeks, \$125 deposit required

Magpie Trap

Free for 2 weeks, \$25 per week after the first 2 weeks, \$125 deposit required

Pigeon Trap

Free for 2 weeks, \$25 per week after the first 2 weeks, \$125 deposit required

Hay and Soil Probes

Free for 2 weeks, \$25 per week after the first 2 weeks, \$125 deposit required

Tree Planter

\$50 per day

FOR SALE:

Pocket Gopher Traps

\$10.95 each

Weeds of the Prairies

\$30 each

Alberta Invasive Plant Identification Guide

\$5 each

Bat Boxes

\$30 each

Green Acreages Guide Workbook

\$30 each

Recycling Bags

FREE, pickup at the Municipal Building

For more information or to rent or purchase any of these items please call 403-230-1401 and ask to speak with Agricultural Services.



Summer Employment

If you or someone you know is looking for summer employment in the agriculture industry, each year Rocky View County hires seasonal weed inspectors, sprayer operators, and mower operators.

The weed inspector performs weed inspections on private and municipal properties throughout the county looking for noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. The mower and sprayer operators are responsible for managing vegetation along county properties and roadsides.

For more information or to apply visit www.rockyview.jobs

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NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

The Agri-View newsletter is a free publication for Rocky View County residents. If you wish to be on the mailing list, please contact Agricultural Services.

If addressing is incorrect, or if you wish to unsubscribe, please contact Agricultural Services at 403.520.7273 or e-mail AgServices@rockyview.ca



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Cultivating Communities

For more information
about Growing Forward
and EEP call 403.230.1401

Growing Forward